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Governor Doyle Announces \$100,000 Grant to Fund Long-Term Home Care for Dane County Seniors

Investment is Part of Governor's Initiative to Expand Family Care Statewide

MIDDLETON - Governor Jim Doyle today announced a \$100,000 planning grant to give more seniors in Dane County the opportunity to receive long-term health care at home. The grant is part of Governor Doyle's initiative to expand Family Care, a program designed to move seniors and people with disabilities out of nursing homes and into community based long-term care.

"No senior should be forced to live in a nursing home if they neither need nor want to be there," Governor Doyle said. "Helping seniors move back in to the community – with more appropriate care – will save taxpayer money, and, more importantly, help seniors live with the dignity and independence they deserve."

Last month in his State of the State Address the Governor called for the expansion of Family Care statewide. The Governor has established a statewide goal of reducing the use of nursing homes by 25 percent over the next eight years.

Currently, Dane County supports more than 2,700 people in community based long-term care programs, but another 558 are on waiting lists. There are more than 860 people in nursing homes in Dane county. The county plans to expand their current services for seniors and people with physical disabilities and then assemble plans to provide services to adults with developmental disabilities.

A partnership between Dane County Department of Human Services, Community Living Alliance, Inc., and Elder Care of Wisconsin, Inc. will receive the grant to plan for the expansion of Family Care in Dane County, and eliminate those waitlists.

The grant is part of a series of grants, totaling \$1.4 million, which Governor Doyle is awarding to communities around the state to lay the groundwork for expanding Family Care statewide, and eliminating waiting lists for community based long-term care. The grants will help foster community and county partnerships like the one Dane County has created with Community Living Alliance and Elder Care of Wisconsin.

More information about the Governor's State of the State initiatives, including the Family Care expansion, is available on the Governor's webpage at:

http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?locid=19&prid=1650